Gepetto

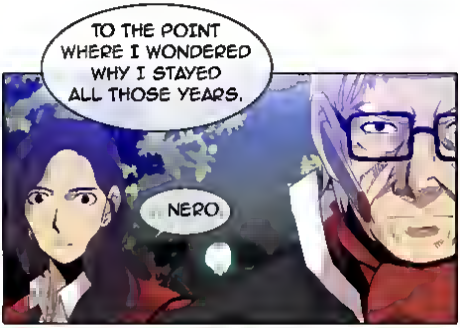
season2

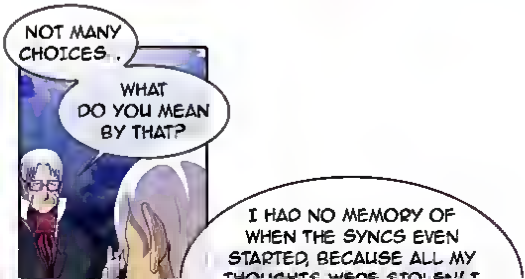
61 - value(II)

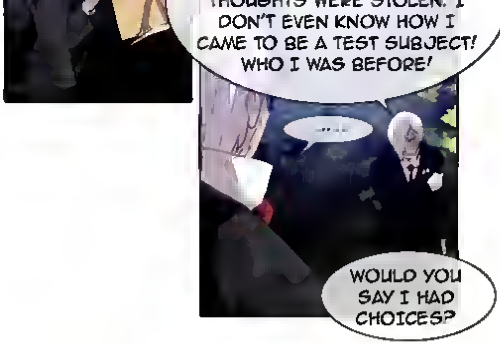
THE INSTITUTE IS YOUR HOME.
IF YOU'D LISTENED TO ME, YOU COULD'VE LIVED ON AS NERO.
THERE WAS A TIME I WOULD HAVE AGREED.
THAT SINCE I DON'T HAVE MANY CHOICES, I MAY AS WELL STAY THERE.

BUT...WHEN I LEFT,

I WAS FACED WITH AN EXPLOSION OF CHOICES


TO THE POINT WHERE I WONDERED WHY I STAYED ALL THOSE YEARS.
NERO.


NOT MANY CHOICES.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
I HAD NO MEMORY OF WHEN THE SYNCS EVEN STARTED, BECAUSE ALL MY

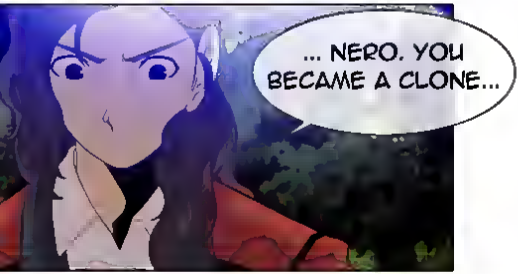

THOUGHTS WERE STOLEN. I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW I CAME TO BE A TEST SUBJECT! WHO I WAS BEFORE!
WOULD YOU SAY I HAD CHOICES?

... WHEN YOU GOT CELINE'S ID CARD, WERE YOU SO FOCUSED ON ALIDORO YOU DIDN'T THINK TO LOOK INTO YOUR OWN RECORDS?

WHAT

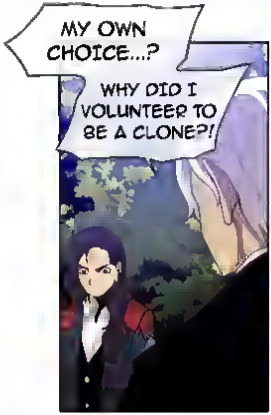
CELINE! WHAT'S HE SAYING! TELL ME!!
.....

GO AHEAD.
NO POINT
HIDING NOW

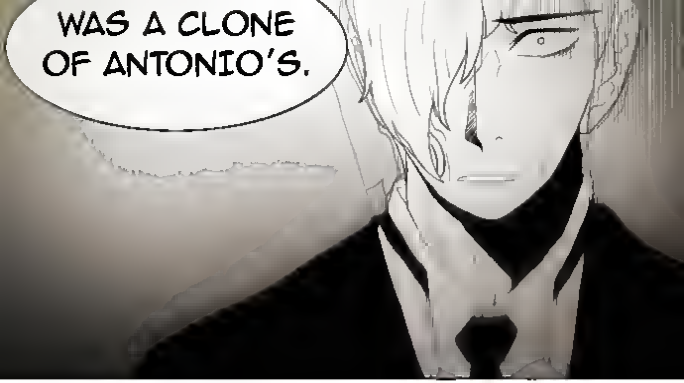

... NERO. YOU
BECAME A CLONE...

BY YOUR OWN
CHOICE.

.....?!


MY OWN CHOICE...?
WHY DID I VOLUNTEER TO BE A CLONE?!

FOR YOU... IT'S HARD TO SAY THERE WAS AN "ORIGINAL"
THE FIRST TEST SUBJECT NERO...


WAS A CLONE
OF ANTONIO'S.

WHAT ARE YOU SAY...
SO CORNELIO NERO...
NEVER
EXISTED?!

I WAS AT RISK OF

LOSING MYSELF WHEN I STARTED SYNCING TO GEPETTO.
I'D BE JEOPARDIZING TOO MUCH TO TRY TO SYNC BACK TO MY OLD FORM.
BUT THE STUDIES CONTINUED
FOR THAT DAY WHEN A STABLE SYNC TECHNOLOGY MAY BE DEVELOPED.
THE CLONE OF MYSELF WAS KEPT IN CRYOGENESIS IN MY YOUNGER FORM

AND THEN WE CONTINUED TO TEST SYCNING MY DATA TO CLONES
LIAR!
BECAUSE IF YOU DID THAT, YOU'D BE FACING IMMENSE LOSSES...
RIGHT, MY LOSSES IN MEMORY WERE PRETTY SIGNIFICANT

BUT AS YOU KNOW, NERO, THE LOSSES ARE NEVER 100%.

I WAS STILL ABLE TO SYNC AS A TOTALLY DIFFERENT PERSON, GEPETTO. RISKING THE LOSS
YOU WERE IN A BETTER STATE THAN I, A CLONE OF MYSELF EVEN IF DIFFERENCES WERE THERE BECAUSE OF AGE
.....

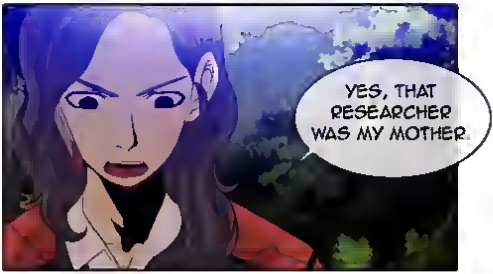
THE FIRST CLONE SUBJECT AT LEAST STILL KNEW HE WAS ANTONIO.
AND HE WANTED TO CONTINUE CLONE TESTING, THOUGH NO ONE WAS FORCING HIM

BUT AS THE SYNCS WENT ON, HE STARTED TO NOT REMEMBER HE WAS ANTONIO.

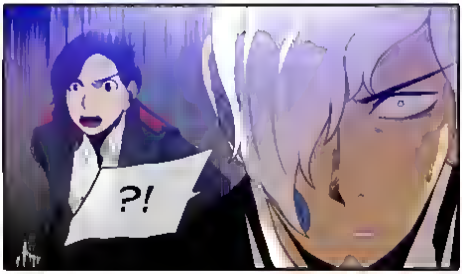
ANTONIO, IT'S TIME TO BACK UP THE SYNC DATA.

ANTONIO, SIR?

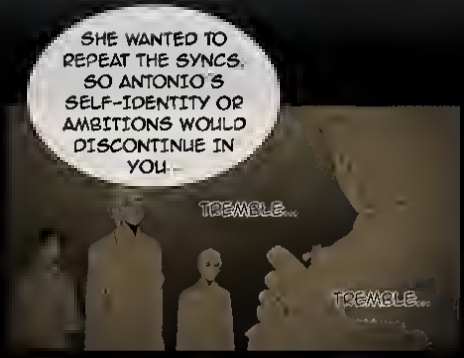
THERE WERE NO ADVANCES IN THE STUDY
AND WHEN WE WERE JUST ABOUT TO GIVE THIS ALL UP, SOMEONE STEPPED FORWARD TO TAKE OVER THE RESEARCH.
.....
SOMEONE...?



AND I CONTINUED HER WORK.

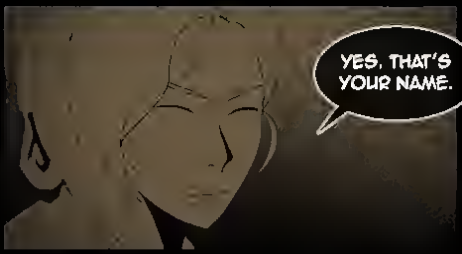


MAKING YOU INDEPENDENT, NOT MERELY A CLONE OF ANTONIO, WHO WAS STARTING TO FORGET THAT HE WAS.


SHE WANTED TO REPEAT THE SYNCS, SO ANTONIO'S SELF-IDENTITY OR AMBITIONS WOULD DISCONTINUE IN YOU.
TREMBLE...
TREMBLE...

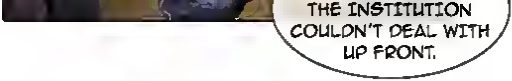
WHO ARE YOU...?
WHERE AM I?

WHO, AM I...
DON'T BE SCARED, NERO.
.....
... NERO?

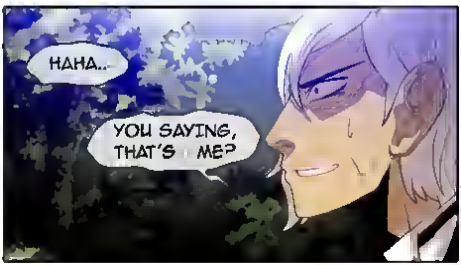


SHE STUDIED HOW TO KEEP SYNCING

WHILE KEEPING YOUR SELF-IDENTITY STABLE, AS NERO.
SO THAT YOU MAY NOT FORGET YOU ARE NERO, AND REMOVE "ANTONIO" ALTOGETHER.
AFTER COUNTLESS FAILED ATTEMPTS, YOU REACHED A STABLE RANGE FOR LOSSES.
AND THEN WENT ONTO HANDLE TASKS


THE INSTITUTION COULDN'T DEAL WITH UP FRONT.

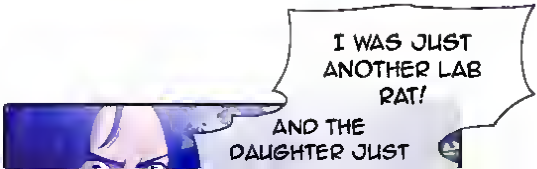
SUCH AS THE SEARCH FOR WHALE,
AND ELIMINATING THOSE THAT WERE AGAINST US.


HAHA...
YOU SAYING, THAT'S ME?

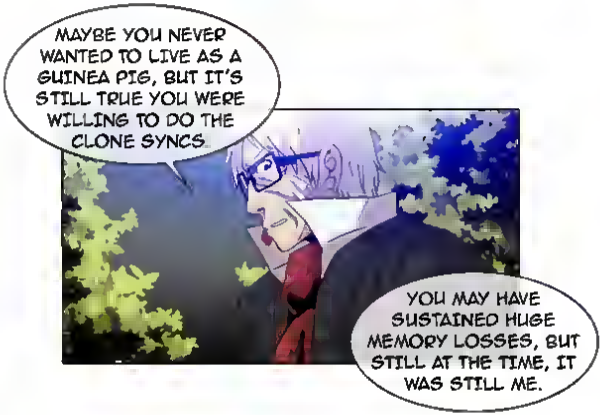
SO CORNELIO

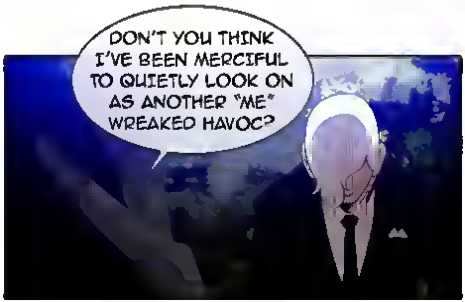
NERO NEVER EXISTED FROM THE START?

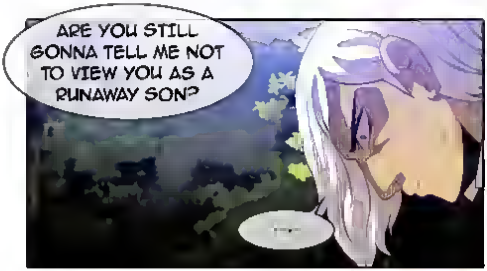
SO ALIDORO WAS RIGHT!
THAT I 'M A TOTAL MONSTER...
AND YET I CANNOT ACCEPT OTHER MONSTROSITIES... HAHA!!


I WAS JUST ANOTHER LAB RAT!
AND THE DAUGHTER JUST

KEPT PLAYING WITH THE POOR RAT...
...... NERO!!


MAYBE YOU NEVER WANTED TO LIVE AS A GUINEA PIG, BUT IT'S STILL TRUE YOU WERE WILLING TO DO THE CLONE SYNCS.
YOU MAY HAVE SUSTAINED HUGE MEMORY LOSSES, BUT STILL AT THE TIME, IT WAS STILL ME.

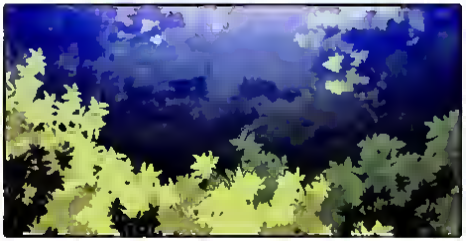

DON'T YOU THINK I'VE BEEN MERCIFUL TO QUIETLY LOOK ON AS ANOTHER "ME" WREAKED HAVOC?

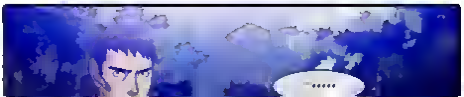

ARE YOU STILL GONNA TELL ME NOT TO VIEW YOU AS A RUNAWAY SON?

SWISH
NERO. I'LL LET YOU WATCH HOW THE REST OF THIS STORY PLAYS OUT.
THEN YOU'LL AT LEAST SEE WHAT YOU DECIDED TO DIE FOR

TIE HIM UP.
WE TAKE HIM
WITH US.

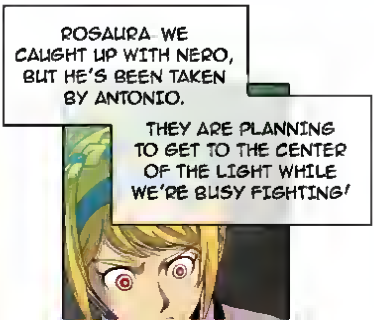
WE WASTED SO MUCH TIME
MOVE OUT




.....

SWOOSH...

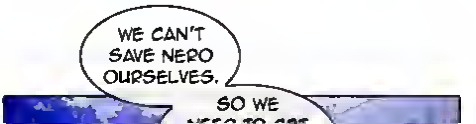
TO THINK EVEN NERO WAS A MAN-MADE BEING...
HIS SELF-RESPECT IS PROBABLY SHATTERED, AND THAT WAS WHAT WAS HOLDING HIM TOGETHER.


ROSAURA. WE CAUGHT UP WITH NERO, BUT HE'S BEEN TAKEN BY ANTONIO.
THEY ARE PLANNING TO GET TO THE CENTER OF THE LIGHT WHILE WE'RE BUSY FIGHTING!

!

AND ACCORDING WHAT WE JUST HEARD, NERO WAS A CLONE OF ANTONIO.

"CORNELIO NERO" NEVER EXISTED.
.. WHAT?!


WE CAN'T SAVE NERO OURSELVES.
SO WE

NEED TO GET RID OF ALIOORO, AND QUICK..!

EVERYONE'S FIGHTING THEIR BEST! SO THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO RIGHT NOW..!
.....

LEADER HAS HAD HIS LIMIT DISABLED TOO LONG..!

AT THIS RATE, HE'LL REALLY...
CEASE MOVING.

GEPETTO

season2 # 61- value(11) END